SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Perfectly understandable.

MOTION FOR ELECTION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPTT. AND DEPTT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAK-ANT D. KHALAP): Madam Deputy Chairman, I move the following Motions:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted for the purposes set out in the motion adopted by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th July, 1996, and resolves that this House do join in the said Joint Committee and proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, five Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Joint Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I was quite surprised when you were not in the House because you are one of the very smart and responsible Ministers. So, I was wondering what happened to you. I assumed that you were in Lok Sabha.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Madam, while I was coming down by the lift, some people pressed the button. So, again it went up and then came down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next lime we should see that it doesn't happen.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): We appreciate the manner in which he ran to the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We appreciate it. That is why we have allowed him.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): He ran well against the backdrop of our performance in the Atlanta Olympics.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think we should send some of our white-haired people to participate in the Olympics.

RESOLUTION RE: NOMINATION OF MEMBERS , TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RATE OF DIVIDEND PAYABLE TO GENERAL REVENUES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): Madam Deputy Chairman, I move the following Resolution:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to the nomination by the Chairman of six Members from the Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary Committee to review the Rate of Dividend which is at present payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with Railway Finance vis-a-vis General Finance and to make recommendations thereon."

As you are aware, the inter-relationship between the General Revenues and Railway Finance has been regulated on the basis of the recommendations of the successive Railway convention Committees ever since the Railway Finance was separated from the General Revenues in 1924.

The last Railway Convention Committee, 1991 ceased to exist on the dissolution of the Tenth Lok Sabha in March, this year. It is considered necessary to set up a new Railway Convention Committee immediately for making recommendations in regard to payment of dividend by the Railway undertaking to the General Revenues and other ancillary matters.

With this object, I commend the Resolution for the consideration of the House.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

उपसभापति: मंत्री जी, जो छोटा आपने पहले पढ़ा था वह सफिसियेंट होता है। किस कारण से किया है, क्या है, इसको पढ़ने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): अभी बाकी है। इन्होंने पूरा पढ़ा ही नहीं है। अभी और है।

उपसभापति: अच्छा करा, नहीं पढ़ा, क्योंकि इसकी आवश्यकता नहीं है। इसके वगैर भी काम हो जाता है।

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): अच्छा पढ़ा।

उपसभापति: हां, पढ़ा अच्छा। जब और कोई दूसरी चीज आए तब ज्यादा अच्छा पढ़ लीजिए।

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया (बिहार): मैडम, एक्सटर्नल एफियर्स मिनिस्टर नहीं है।

उपसभापति: उन्हें अभी नहीं आना है। वे आयेंगे 1 बजे।

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया: एक बजे तो हाउस उठ जाएगा।

उपसभापति: यह निर्णय हुआ था, कल लीडर्स ने यह तय किया था कि

the Leader of the House and External Affairs Minister should be present. We have Zero Hour submissions and also Special Mentions which Members gave.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Normally, on Friday we don't do it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will finish this business by 1 o'clock. *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Ahluwalia, you ask for something. When I am explaining, you don't listen. Then there would be confusion.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Normally, we do not sit.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, normally, we do not. But it is the decision of Members themselves.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Today, it is Friday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know. But it is the decision of Members that, considering that today is the last day of this Session and that there are many hon. Members who want to make special mentions and zero-hour mentions, we would take up that business till 1 o'clock. I want to announce in the House that we can take up special mentions and zero-hour mentions till 1 o'clock. Then we will have the clarifications of the External Affairs Minister. By 2.30 p.m. we have to release him to go to the Lok Sabha because he has to reply on the same matter there. After the Private Members' business, there are two legislations which we have to pass. They can be discussed together. And after that, if any left-over special mentions or zero-hour mentions are there, they can be taken up. This is the programme. Shri Dipankar Mukherjee. *(Interruptions.).*

SHRI SAT1SH AGARWAL: What are the two legislations?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a second, Mr. Mukherjee. Let me explain it. Today, we have received the messages. With the discretionary power of the Chair, a discussion is allowed today. Because the Lok Sabha pased them late last night, they could not be reported yesterday as the Rajya Sabha had adjourned for the day. The Supplementary List of Business is coming? I will read out what they are. The first is the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 19%.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: That has been passed by this House already.

उपसभापति: यह मैसेस रिपोर्ट हुआ है राज्य सभा में। यह बिल हमने पहले पास किया था वह वापिस आया है (व्यवधान)

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: आपने यह कहा कि दो लेजिस्लेशन पास करेंगे, वह कौन से हैं?

उपसभापति: यह बिल है—

One is the Building Construction and Other Workers Welfare Cess Bill, 1996 and the other is the Building Construction and Other Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1996. these two can be discussed together. And then, we can have the rest. Let us go ahead now. Shri Dipankar Mukherjee.

RE. IMMEDIATE NEED FOR REVIVAL OF SICK PUBLIC SECTOR FERTILIZER COMPANIES

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, it is with a lot of dismay that I rise to bring to the notice of the House, through you, the position of fertilizers, specially Urea, in this country.

Madam, this issue has been raised time and again. The country is seized with the problem of the Urea Scam. A lot of things have been written about the Urea Scam in the last four months. To us, to me, the biggest scam that is happening in the country so far as fertilizers are concerned is the import of Urea. Why are we importing Urea? In 1995-96, we have imported 37 lakh tonnes of Urea; 37 lakh tonnes! And six fertilizer-producing units in the country are lying either unutilised or under-utilised! There are six such companies. There are two public sector fertilizer companies, the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India. The units are in Dur-gapur in West Bengal, in Barauni and Sindri in Bihar, in Namrup in Assam, in Talcher in Orissa and in Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh. These two companies have been reported to the BIFR for the last four years. And for the last four years, there has been no proposal from the Government to revive them. There was a glimmer of hope when a Cabinet decision was taken in April, 1995, in principle, that a revival of these units would be possible if we invested Rs. 2,200 crores. And if Rs. 2,2000 crores was invested, then 23 lakh tonnes of Urea would be available from these units. We would get 23 lakh tonnes of Urea if we only invested Rs. 2,200 crores. What have we been doing? We have been importing. In only one year, we have imported Urea worth Rs. 2,500 crores.

My submission to this Government is this. With a proposal which was accepted in principle, for eight months, the earlier Government had been telling us that they were searching for funds.

The funds could not be made available for reviving the six fertilizer units while the funds were availble for importing 35 lakh tonnes of urea in 1995-96 and 28 lakh tonnes of urea in 1994-95. This is a national issue. If we have to maintain our food security-and we can be self-reliant, self-sufficient in urea-what is required is the political will and the will to take a decision, and I would like that the Government should review it again and immediately implement the revival proposal which has been gathering dust for years together. The country can no longer wait for scams. This will be the biggest scam, If we import urea and keep our plants shut down. Thank you, Madam.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: मैडम, ये बड़ी अजीब बात बोल रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान) अगर इम्पोर्ट नहीं होगा तो कम्पनी को पैसा कैसे मिलेगा। हमारे देश के जो बड़े बड़े राजनेता हैं, उनके खानदान के लोग हैं ...(व्यवधान) वे पैसा कैसे खाएंगे ...(व्यवधान) प्रोडक्शन नहीं किया जाता है ताकि बाहर से इम्पोर्ट किया जाए।

†[شری محمد سلیم: میڈم - یہ بڑی عجیب بات بول رہے ہیں - - - "مداخلت" - - - اگر امپورٹ بند ہو گا تو کمپنی کو پیسہ کیسے

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.